

COUNTRY East Germany

Approved For Release 2003/12/11 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000900760009-0

TOPIC Military Information from Altenburg

25X1A

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT 27 January to 13 February 1953

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 16 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 10 February, the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse, north side of Kopernikus Strasse and on the south side of Steinberg Strasse, Altenburg, was occupied by about 2,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The barracks installation was lighted at nightfall. From 80 to 100 soldiers would march to the garages for technical maintenance. Only little training activity was noticed. On 31 January, two prime movers towed 2 x 152-mm howitzers into the installation.

2. On 14 February, the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse and north of Dresdener Strasse quartered about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Groups of up to 60 soldiers marched to the garages for technical duty. No training activity was observed.

3. Prior to 11 February, the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by about 600 soldiers. On 27 January, 1 x 76-mm AT gun was emplaced in the terrain 1 km north-northeast of the installation and one 100-mm AT gun was emplaced at Steinberg Strasse. Groups of 40 to 20 soldiers respectively were seen with the guns. Three 152-mm howitzers were emplaced near the Obstwaeldchen, northeast of the installation. Forty men with two battery commander's telescopes were in the emplacement. Three track-laying tractors were parked nearby. On 4 February, 14 soldiers practiced rifle firing on the target range. On 6 February, about 60 soldiers received field training in the Obstwaeldchen woods, while 12 soldiers with a 45-mm AT gun marched out of the barracks installation toward the town. Between 1 and 2 p.m. on 13 February, about 24 trucks

and 2 field kitchens were lined up in the barracks yard, with 80 to 100 soldiers carrying rifles and field bags falling in in front of the vehicles.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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SECRET/ [REDACTED]

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- 2 - [REDACTED]

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4. Prior to 11 February, the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse quartered about 500 troops. About 25 soldiers drilled in the barracks yard on 6 February. [REDACTED]

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5. Between 1:15 and 2:05 p.m. on 13 February, ambulance [REDACTED] 2 half-track vehicles, 3 trucks, each towing a one-axle van-like trailer, 4 trucks and 30 to 40 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were loaded at the Altenburg freight station.

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6. On 11 February, a resident near the Rositz railroad station, west of Altenburg, stated that a troop train with trucks and heavy artillery pieces passed through the railroad station, coming from Altenburg and proceeding toward Zeitz. [REDACTED] 1 2

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The 43d Army Arty Brig in the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse is believed to have a strength of 1,300 to 1,400 troops, while the 38th Army AT Arty Brig in the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse is believed to have a strength of 1,500 to 1,600 troops. The strength estimates [REDACTED] are therefore believed incorrect, as [REDACTED] only one shipment each of the brigade was absent from the post from 10 to 17 February.

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